

*August 16–20, 2004 – SEDAR
Assessment Workshop – (Miami)*

August 16, 2004, 2:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

August 17–19, 2004, 8:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

August 20, 2004, 8:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Using the data set collected from the data workshop, participants will develop population models, evaluate the status of the stock, estimate population benchmarks and Sustainable Fisheries Act criteria, and complete the Assessment Report.

October 25–29, 2004 – SEDAR Review Workshop – (New Orleans)

October 25, 2004, 2 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

October 26 – 28, 2004, 8:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

October 29, 2004, 8:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.

The review workshop is an independent peer review of the assessment developed during the data and assessment workshops. Workshop Panelists will review the assessment and document their consensus opinions regarding assessment issues in a Consensus Summary Report. Panelists will summarize the assessment results in an Advisory Report.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before these groups for discussion, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during these meetings. Action will be restricted to those issues specifically identified in this notice and any issues arising after publication of this notice that require emergency action under section 305(c) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, provided the public has been notified of the Council's intent to take final action to address the emergency.

Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council office (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**) at least 5 business days prior to each workshop.

Dated: March 26, 2004.

Alan D. Risenhoover,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.
[FR Doc. 04–7251 Filed 3–30–04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 032504C]

New England Fishery Management Council; Public Meetings

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce

ACTION: Notice of public meetings.

SUMMARY: The New England Fishery Management Council (Council) is scheduling a public meeting of its Groundfish Advisory Panel and its Groundfish Oversight Committee in April, 2004 to consider actions affecting New England fisheries in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ). Recommendations from these groups will be brought to the full Council for formal consideration and action, if appropriate.

DATES: The meetings will be held on April 14, 2004 and April 22, 2004. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for specific dates and times.

ADDRESSES: The meetings will both be held at the Holiday Inn, One Newbury Street, Peabody, MA 01960; telephone: (978) 535–4600.

Council address: New England Fishery Management Council, 50 Water Street, Mill 2, Newburyport, MA 01950.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Paul J. Howard, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council; telephone: (978) 465–0492.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Meeting Dates and Agendas

Wednesday, April 14, 2004 at 9:30 a.m. – Groundfish Advisory Panel Meeting.

The panel will continue to work on developing advice for Framework 40 (FW 40) to the Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan (FMP). The primary purpose of FW 40 is to identify opportunities for use of Category B days-at-sea (DAS). The Advisory Panel will consider opportunities to use these DAS both in Special Access Programs and outside of these programs. The Panel will develop recommendations for all of the restrictions associated with the use of Category B DAS, including requirements for gear, areas, seasons, possession limits, and reporting and monitoring requirements. The Panel may also develop advice for other provisions that are being considered in FW 40, such as changes to the DAS transfer and leasing conservation tax.

The Panel's recommendations will be reported to the Groundfish Oversight Committee for consideration at a future meeting. They will consider other business as necessary.

Thursday, April 22, 2004 at 9:30 a.m. – Groundfish Oversight Committee Meeting.

The committee will continue to develop FW 40 to the Northeast Multispecies FMP. The primary purpose of FW 40 is to identify opportunities for use of Category B days-at-sea (DAS), though this framework does include provisions that will modify elements of the DAS leasing and transfer regulations and the allocation of Category B (reserve) DAS. The Committee will consider opportunities to use Category B DAS both in Special Access Programs and outside of these programs. They will consider recommendations from the Groundfish Advisory Panel for all of the restrictions associated with the use of Category B DAS, including requirements for gear, areas, seasons, possession limits, and reporting and monitoring requirements. The Committee will also develop detailed requirements for other provisions that are being considered in FW 40, such as changes to the DAS transfer and leasing conservation tax. They may also discuss other business as necessary. The Council will consider the Committee's recommendations at a future date.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before this group for discussion, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during this meeting. Action will be restricted to those issues specifically listed in this notice and any issues arising after publication of this notice that require emergency action under section 305(c) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, provided the public has been notified of the Council's intent to take final action to address the emergency.

Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Paul J. Howard (see **ADDRESSES**) at least 5 days prior to the meeting dates.

Dated: March 26, 2004.

Alan D. Risenhoover,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.
[FR Doc. 04–7248 Filed 3–30–04; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

[I.D. 032204F]

North Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of a public meeting.

SUMMARY: The North Pacific Fishery Management Council's (Council) Steller Sea Lion Mitigation Committee (SSLMC) will meet in Seattle, WA.

DATES: The meeting will be held April 26, 2004, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Alaska Fisheries Science Center (AFSC), 7600 Sand Point Way NE, National Marine Mammal Lab Conference Room, Seattle, WA. The meeting can also be accessed by conference line at (907) 789-6622.

Council address: North Pacific Fishery Management Council, 605 W. 4th Ave., Suite 306, Anchorage, AK 99501-2252.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Bill Wilson, North Pacific Fishery Management Council; telephone: (907) 271-2809.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The meeting agenda includes the following topics:

1. Introductions and opening remarks;
2. Council motion on Aleut Corporation Aleutian Islands pollock fishery;
3. Update on the Environmental Assessment/Regulatory Impact Review (EA/RIR) on Aleut Corporation pollock fishery;
4. Industry proposals for Steller Sea Lion (SSL) protection measure changes in the Aleutian Islands;
5. NMFS position on Aleutian Island protection measures;
6. Update on AFSC fishery interaction studies, Aleutian Island SSL counts, and other related research;
7. Discussion and recommendations from SSLMC to the Council;
8. Future activities of the SSLMC; and
9. Action items, closing remarks.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before this committee for discussion, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during this meeting. Action will be restricted to those issues specifically identified in this notice and any issues arising after publication of this notice that require emergency

action under section 305(c) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, provided the public has been notified of the Council's intent to take final action to address the emergency.

Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Gail Bendixen, 907-271-2809, at least 5 working days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: March 26, 2004.

Alan D. Risenhoover,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 04-7249 Filed 3-30-04; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

[I.D. 032204B]

Western Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Meetings

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of public meetings.

SUMMARY: The Western Pacific Fishery Management Council is hosting the Regional Fishery Management Council Chairs and Executive Directors Meeting on Tuesday, April 13, 2004, through Thursday April 15, 2004, in Hawaii. The purpose of the meeting is to enable NMFS and NOAA officials and others to exchange information with and obtain the individual views of the Council Chairs and Executive Directors. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for specific times, dates, and agenda items.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held in Salon B at the Kaua'i Marriott Hotel, Kalapaki Beach, Lihue, Hawaii, 96766 Puna B and C meeting rooms; telephone: (808) 245 5050, <http://marriottthawaii.com/kauai.html>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kitty M. Simonds, Executive Director; telephone: (808) 522-8220.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Dates and Times**

There will be a non-public administrative session from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on April 13, 2004, the first general session will be from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. on April 13, 2004. The second general

session will be from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. on April 14, 2004; and the final general session be from 8 a.m. until 6 p.m. on April 15, 2004.

The agenda during the General Session of the Regional Fishery Management Council Chairs and Executive Directors meeting will include the items listed here. The order in which agenda items are addressed may change. The Council will meet as late as necessary to complete scheduled business.

Tuesday, April 13, 2004, 2 p.m.

A. Opening Remarks by Western Pacific Council and NOAA Fisheries

B. Regional Highlights

C. Report on Managing the Nation's Fisheries Conference - and proposed Sequel Conference in March 2005

D. National Fisheries Conference II - The Future of Fisheries: Commercial, Recreational & Aquaculture, October 18-21, 2004 (Tentative)

E. Remarks - The Honorable Wayne T Gilchrest, Chair House Resources Subcommittee on Fisheries Conservation, Wildlife and Oceans.

F. MSA Reauthorization and other legislative initiatives.

1. Briefing from Congressional Staff
2. Review NOAA Fisheries position document, and proposed bill language (if available)

3. Review of Chairmen's positions on old and new issues

Wednesday, April 14, 2004, 8 a.m.

G. Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA): Proceedings for Council Chairs and Executive Directors (CCED) meetings

H. Budget Issues

1. Council Funding Necessities
2. 2004 Budget - NOAA Matrix Management Coral Reef & Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) (National Ocean Service) & Ecosystem (NMFS)

3. Availability of 2004 National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Habitat and Ecosystem Funding for Councils

4. 2005 Budget Request
5. 2006 and Beyond
6. Council Grant Relationships with Regions and NOAA Office of Grants Management

I. Enforcement issues:

1. U.S. Coast Guard Report
2. NOAA Fisheries Office of Law Enforcement
3. NOAA Fisheries VMS Policy